Pursuant to this Court's order of August 4, 2008 (*see* Docket No. 61), the Parties met for a settlement conference before Magistrate Wayne D. Brazil on August 7, 2008. In order to open up their schedules to meet for this settlement conference, and in order to avoid incurring further costs and attorneys' fees (and thereby make settlement less likely), the Parties were forced to take several previously-noticed depositions off calendar.

Taking these depositions off calendar proved to be a productive choice. Magistrate Brazil summarized the significant progress made by the Parties on August 7, 2008 as follows: "2 good ideas (one from each side). Parties continue negotiations." *See* Docket No. 62. After the

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settlement conference, the Parties met for more than an hour in the witness rooms outside of the Magistrate's courtroom.

The "2 good ideas" referenced by Magistrate Brazil represent substantial political, monetary, and practical concessions from each of Plaintiff EEOC, Plaintiff/Intervenor Janet Stege, and Defendant G-P. All Parties have indicated that these substantial concessions are possible *only* if this case settles before trial. The Parties sincerely wish to build on the progress made in this settlement conference and quickly to reach a settlement agreement.

However, because the current fact discovery deadline, September 2, 2008, is fast approaching, this will only be possible with a continuance of discovery deadlines and the trial calendar. The Parties have noticed (and then taken off calendar) several critical depositions, all of which cannot possibly be completed before the current fact discovery cutoff. Further, the cost, both in money and time, of conducting these depositions will make achieving settlement significantly less likely.

The Parties have met three separate times in an attempt to reach settlement: (1) in an ADR mediation conference on April 24, 2008; (2) in a several-hour meeting on July 17, 2008; and (3) in the settlement conference before Magistrate Brazil. Each meeting has been more successful than the prior one, and the Parties stand on the edge of reaching settlement. Because the discovery cutoff date is fast approaching, the Parties request that Your Honor, the general duty judge, sign the proposed order, filed concurrently herewith, in Judge Armstrong's absence.

## SO STIPULATED:

 $I \ hereby \ attest \ that \ I \ have \ on \ file \ all \ holograph \ signatures \ for \ any \ signatures \ indicated$  by a "conformed" signature (/S/) within this efiled document.

Date: August 8, 2008 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

/s/ Linda Ordonio-Dixon Linda Ordonio-Dixon Attorney for Plaintiff EEOC

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1 2	Date: August 8, 2008		DICKSON – ROSS LLP	
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4			/s/ Kathryn Burkett Dickson	
5			/s/ Kathryn Burkett Dickson Kathryn Burkett Dickson Attorney for Plaintiff/Intervenor Janet Stege	
6				
7	Date: August 8, 2008		LITTLER MENDELSON, P.C.	
8				
9			/s/ Margaret Hart Edwards	
10			/s/ Margaret Hart Edwards Margaret Hart Edwards Attorney for Defendant Georgia-Pacific Corrugated, LLC	
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